

FOR RELEASE AT 7:00 A.M. DECEMBER 1, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

(Augusta, Georgia)

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The President announced today that the United States will offer asylum to 21,500 refugees from Hungary. Of these, about 6500 will receive Refugee Relief Act visas under the emergency program initiated three weeks ago. The remaining 15,000 will be admitted to the United States under the provisions of Section 212 (d) (5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. When these numbers have been exhausted, the situation will be re-examined.

The President emphasized that the flight of refugees into Austria had created an emergency problem which the United States should share with the other countries of the free world. Because of this emergency, those refugees who seek asylum in the United States will be brought here with the utmost practicable speed.

The President pointed out that the immigration visas available for Hungarian escapees under the Refugee Relief Act are practically exhausted and that the emergency compels the only other action which is available, namely, action under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act which authorizes admission on parole.

Persons admitted into the United States on parole have no permanent status in the United States, but the President will request the Congress in January for emergency legislation which will, through the use of unused numbers under the Refugee Relief Act, or otherwise, permit qualified escapees who accept asylum in the United States to obtain permanent residence.

The President also stated that it was his intention to request the Congress to include in such legislation provisions which would allow at least some of the escapees who have proceeded to other countries for asylum to have the opportunity to apply for permanent resettlement in the United States, having in mind particularly the fact that many of those refugees undoubtedly have relatives here.

The President pointed out that other nations have already made increasingly generous offers of asylum and have waived the ordinary restrictions imposed upon immigration.

The President said that he had directed the Secretary of Defense to work out arrangements for the transportation of these refugees to the United States in accordance with agreements to be made with the Austrian Government and the Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration.

In making his announcement, the President said that providing asylum to these Hungarian refugees would give practical effect to the American people's intense desire to help the victims of Soviet oppression. It will also materially assist the Government of Austria, which has responded so generously to the refugees' needs, to carry out its policy of political asylum.



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December 6, 1956

TO THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS FOR INFORMATION

The President announced today arrangements for the transportation to the United States of the large additional quota of refugees from Hungary, whose admission he had approved on December 1st. The President in his statement of December 1st said that he had directed the Secretary of Defense to work out arrangements for the transportation of these refugees to the United States.

These arrangements have now been made. They provide for the movement of the refugees to the United States with the utmost possible speed.

To this end, there will be both an air-lift and a sea-lift.

The bulk of the air-lift will be by United States Air Force and United States Navy aircraft through the Military Air Transportation Service (MATS).

The ocean-lift will be by United States Navy transports, through the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS).

Transportation for the original quota of 5,000 refugees has previously been arranged by the Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration (ICEM). This will continue as already scheduled. The President is also requesting the Committee to arrange for similar transportation from Austria to the United States of the additional 1500 refugees who will come in under the Refugee Relief Act.

The Department of Defense will have the full responsibility for the transportation from Europe to the United States of the remaining 15,000 refugees. These are coming in under the Immigration and Nationality Act -- the so-called Parole Provision.

The ocean transportation will be supplied by three United States Navy transports which, subject to the approval of the German Government, will sail from Bremerhaven, Germany, for New York. The first of these will arrive at the Port of Embarkation about December 18th and will sail between then and December 21st. The second will sail about a week later, and the third the next week.

The balance of the 15,000 will be air-lifted. In order to speed the refugees to this country, the Military Air Transportation Service will be authorized, in addition to the air-lift by aircraft of the United States Air Force and the United States Navy, to make contracts with private companies for additional flights.

All flights by United States military planes will, subject to the approval of the German Government, take off from Munich, Germany. They will bring the refugees to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. From there, the refugees will be taken for temporary staging to Camp Kilmer, the facilities of which are adequate even for these very large numbers.

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The President has requested the Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration to make the arrangements for necessary transportation from Austria to Bremerhaven for those coming by ocean transport and to Munich for those to be air-lifted.

In order to do all possible for the comfort and care of these homeless persons to whom the United States is giving asylum, the American National Red Cross will supply a team of workers to assist the refugees at the Munich Airport, as well as a team on each of the ocean transports. These workers will be flown to Europe by the Military Air Transportation Service.

The air-lift will begin within the next few days at the rate of 200 a day. The number will be progressively increased by about 100 a day until it reaches 500 a day. This should make possible the movement out of Austria of most of the refugees who are coming by air by about the end of the year or shortly thereafter.

Immediately after Congress convenes, the President will seek the necessary legislation to permit the refugees admitted under the Parole Provision to remain permanently in the United States. Such proposed legislation will also provide an opportunity for at least some of the Hungarian refugees who have been given temporary asylum in other countries to apply for admission to the United States for permanent residence.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

H R R  
December 8, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

(Augusta, Georgia)

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 401 of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended, it is hereby determined that the use of funds, available under said Act, for the purpose of carrying out the program of asylum for refugees from Hungary which was announced by my statement of December 1, 1956, is important to the security of the United States and that assistance to such refugees will contribute to the security of the United States.

The Department of State, the Department of Defense, the International Cooperation Administration, and any other Executive Agencies which may participate in this program are authorized and directed to take such action and make such expenditures as may be necessary to perform such services and carry out such activities as are requested by my Representative for Hungarian Refugee Relief, and to be reimbursed from funds available under said Section for additional costs incurred and not otherwise provided for, to the extent agreed upon between such Agencies and ICA and approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget. It is my desire that the program be carried out forthwith and without awaiting completion of arrangements for reimbursements.

The Director of the International Cooperation Administration is requested on my behalf to give appropriate notices, pursuant to Section 513 of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended, to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the respective Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Armed Services.

/s/ Dwight D. Eisenhower

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December 8, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

(Augusta, Georgia)

MEMORANDUM TO

The Heads of Executive Departments and Establishments

SUBJECT: Hungarian Refugees

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/s/ Dwight D. Eisenhower

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For Release in the Morning Papers Monday, December 10, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

(Augusta, Georgia)

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, December 10th, the United States together with many other nations will observe Human Rights Day. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights overwhelmingly approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations eight years ago has rightly been hailed as an important milestone along the road that leads to world-wide recognition of the inherent dignity of man.

This year the free world has the most compelling reasons for observing Human Rights Day with renewed awareness and resolution, but it has little cause to "celebrate" that day.

The recent outbreak of brutality in Hungary has moved free peoples everywhere to reactions of horror and revulsion. Our hearts are filled with sorrow. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the courageous, liberty-loving people of Hungary.

The terror imposed upon Hungary repudiates and negates almost every article in the Declaration of Human Rights.

It denies that men are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that all should act in the spirit of brotherhood.

It denies the right to life, liberty, and security of person.

It denies the principle that no one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

It denies that no person shall be arbitrarily arrested, detained, or exiled.

It denies that all are equal before the law and entitled to its equal protection.

It denies the right to fair and public hearings by an independent and impartial tribunal.

It denies the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.

It denies the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

It denies the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.

It denies that the individual may not be held in slavery or servitude.

It denies that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government.

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That these human rights have been so flagrantly repudiated is cause for worldwide mourning.

But the human spirit knows, as Thomas Jefferson said, that the God Who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time. The courage and sacrifices of the brave Hungarian people have consecrated that spirit anew.

Not only government but the people of many nations have reacted in spontaneous sympathy. I am proud of the generous response of our voluntary agencies, humanitarian organizations, and of State and local governments -- but I am especially proud of what so many of our people have done, and are doing, as individuals.

We shall continue to offer shelter to the homeless, as we shall go on feeding the hungry. and providing medicine and care for the sick.

On this Human Rights Day, it is for each one of us to recognize anew that we are brothers in our Father's house, and each is truly his brother's keeper. We cannot shed that responsibility, nor do we want to do so. Let us resolve on this day that the world shall never forget what tyranny has done to our fellow man in Hungary.

Each in his own way, let us do all that we can to reaffirm, in word and in deed, our faith in the cause of freedom everywhere in the world.

So doing, these honored dead "shall not have died in vain."

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December 12, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

(Augusta, Georgia)

The President today announced creation of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief.

In recently appointing Tracy S. Voorhees as his representative in connection with Hungarian refugee relief and resettlement activities, the President directed him, among other duties, to assure full coordination of the work of the voluntary agencies with each other and with the Government agencies involved and to see that effective machinery is promptly set up for this purpose. Acting upon Mr. Voorhees' recommendation that the best organization to accomplish this is a small group of persons actively interested in this field of endeavor, including representatives of the principal religious faiths currently concerned with this problem, the President today appointed the Committee with the following initial membership:

Lewis W. Douglas, Honorary Chairman  
Tracy S. Voorhees, Chairman  
J. Lawton Collins, Vice Chairman and Director  
William Hallam Tuck, Vice Chairman  
Leo C. Beebe  
Alfred M. Gruenther  
Lewis Hoskins  
Mrs. John C. Hughes  
John A. Krout  
Moses Leavitt  
George Meany  
Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom  
Charles P. Taft  
R. Norris Wilson  
William J. Donovan, Counsel

In addition to its coordinating functions, the Committee will be a focal point to which offers of assistance to refugees, such as jobs, homes and educational opportunities can be directed and referred to the appropriate agencies.

The functions of the Committee, the President said, will not include fund raising. The Committee will support in every way possible the various religious and other voluntary groups which are already so devotedly engaged in work for these refugees. It will assist in coordinating their efforts, particularly those related to the work of the responsible Government agencies concerned with this program.

The Committee will have a head office in Washington and an office at Camp Kilmer, where much of the work will be done in close contact with the voluntary agencies. Mr. Tuck will be the Committee's representative in Austria acting in a liaison capacity with the American Ambassador, Llewellyn E. Thompson

The members of the Committee will serve without compensation. No expenses of the Committee will be paid from any funds raised for Hungarian refugee relief.

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~~IMMEDIATE RELEASE~~

DECEMBER 15, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President announced today that the United States will contribute \$4,000,000 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to be used for assistance to Hungarian refugees.

The contribution is in response to a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly and a joint appeal for help issued by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

An earlier United States contribution of \$1,000,000 was made to the United Nations for the same purpose on November 13, 1956. Since that time, the influx of refugees from Hungary into Austria has continued and more than 130,000 have escaped into Austria from their homeland.

The additional contribution of \$4,000,000 from the United States will assist the Austrian Government working in cooperation with the High Commissioner, the International Red Cross and other inter-governmental and voluntary agencies, in meeting the heavy demands placed upon the Republic of Austria, by the arrival of these refugees.

In announcing this contribution, the President said that the United States Government was proud to join with other governments, through the United Nations, in providing additional means to carry on the humanitarian work of assistance to the Hungarian refugees. He also expressed admiration for the generous and efficient assistance being given the refugees by the Federal Government of Austria and by inter-governmental and private organizations.



December 20, 1956

JAMES C. HAGERTY, PRESS SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE PAGEANT  
OF PEACE CEREMONIES, LIGHTING THE NATIONAL  
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE, HELD ON THE  
ELLIPSE, WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 20, 1956, 5:15 P.M., EST

(AS ACTUALLY DELIVERED)

Mr. Chairman, Secretary Seaton, and My Friends:

In this Nation's capital city we are joined tonight with millions in all our forty-eight States, and, indeed, throughout the world, in the happiness and in the hope that Christmas brings.

Not that everyone is filled with happiness and hope in this season of rejoicing. Far from it. There is weariness -- there is suffering for multitudes. There is hunger as well as happiness, slavery as well as freedom in the world tonight. But in the myriads of Christmas candles we see the vision of a better world for all people.

In the light of Christmas, the dark curtains of the world are drawn aside for the moment. We see more clearly our neighbors next door; and our neighbors in other nations. We see ourselves and the responsibilities that belong to us. Inspired by the story of Christmas we seek to give of our happiness and abundance to others less fortunate. Even now the American people, on the farm and in the city, rallying through the Red Cross and other voluntary agencies to meet the needs of our neighbors in Hungary, are true to the spirit of Christmas.

Even more important, there are particularly manifested during this season those spiritual qualities of freedom and honor and neighborliness and good will -- great virtues that make all peoples one. Through them, and faith in them, we see how men can live together in peace; for one glorious moment we sense progress toward that aspiration of every religious faith -- "Peace on earth, good will to men."

These are hallowed words; through ages they have heartened and moved mankind, even though their message of peace is far too often drowned by the strident voices of the fearful or the arrogant, who fill our minds with doubt and pessimism. They blur our vision with clouds of hate.

But the spirit of Christmas returns, yet again, to enable us to gain understanding of each other; to help each other; to obey the elemental precepts of justice; to practice good will toward all men of every tongue and color and creed; to remember that we are all identical in our aspirations for a peaceful, a decent, a rewarding life.

In the warm glow of the Christmas tree, it is easy to say these things, but when the trees come down and the lights are put away -- as they always are -- then we have a true testing of the spirit. That testing will be answered, throughout the year ahead, by the success each of us experiences in keeping alive the inspiration and exaltation of this moment.

We must proceed by faith, knowing the light of Christmas is eternal, though we cannot always see it.

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We must believe that the truth of Christmas is constant; that men can live together in peace as Lincoln said, "with charity for all, with firmness in the right."

In this spirit, I now turn on the lights of the National Christmas Tree. (which here was done)

By the light of Christmas charity and Christmas truth, we enter the New Year with gratitude and strength. In this spirit, let us make sure that 1957 will add a memorable chapter to the story of mankind.

Now, on behalf of Mrs. Eisenhower and myself, may I wish for all of you in this audience -- throughout our nation -- throughout the world -- a truly Merry Christmas. And may the Father of us all bless all who dwell upon the earth.

Thank you very much.

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# THE WHITE HOUSE

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES NO. 14

December 21, 1956

### HOUSE

1. Report on D. C. Schools. -- The District of Columbia Schools Subcommittee met at 2 p.m. December 20 in executive session and approved by a split vote a report on "Public School Standards and Conditions and Juvenile Delinquency", the subject of a series of hearings held after Congress adjourned. Rep. Miller (Nebr.), said he was not ready to vote for the report until he sees the exact language of Subcommittee-agreed changes in it and that he and Rep. Hyde (Md.) may issue a minority report. Chairman Davis said the report may be made public December 21.

2. Foreign Affairs Reports Today. -- Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee Richards will hold a press conference at 3:00 p.m. today for advance release of the Committee's "Foreign Aid Study Report."

### CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENTS

3. Corn Problems Discussed. -- After meeting with Secretary Benson Dec. 19 to discuss corn problems, Senator Case (N. D.) said there is general agreement that the present corn acreage allotment program is "not workable" and there is strong prospect that new corn legislation will be proposed in 1957. Others attending the meeting with the Secretary were Senators Martin (Iowa), Jenner (Ind.), and Curtis (Nebr.) and Rep. Andresen (Minn.).

4. Counterpart Funds For Refugee Support. -- Rep. Peter Frelinghuysen, Jr. (N. J.) said he will introduce a bill to permit the use of foreign currencies acquired by the US from the sale of surplus farm products abroad to help Austria and other countries to pay for the cost of feeding, housing, and clothing Hungarian refugees.

5. Opposes Tito Visit to U. S. -- In a letter to Secretary Dulles, Representative O'Konski (Wis.) said he will consider resigning his post if the State Department invites Yugoslav Marshal Tito to visit the U. S.



December 31, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President met today in the Cabinet Room with the Republican leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives. They had a general discussion of many of the domestic programs which will be submitted by the Administration to the Congress in the State of the Union and other messages at the 1957 session of the Congress.

A general discussion of foreign policy, mutual security and national defense programs will be held tomorrow afternoon when the President holds a bi-partisan meeting with the Legislative leaders of both parties.

This morning the main subjects under discussion were the Budget, the further development of the domestic atomic energy program, school construction needs, civil rights and proposed amendments to the Immigration and Naturalization Law.

The Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget outlined the fiscal details of the domestic side of the 1958 Budget as well as projected receipts and expenditures for the 1957 Budget. Both the Secretary and the Director expressed the belief that continuing economies in the operation of the government, coupled with no loss in existing revenues, would result in a continuation of a balanced budget.

The Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission next reviewed the status of the present development of atomic energy for domestic use and discussed proposed additional legislation necessary to expand such development, particularly government indemnity for third-party liability in connection with the atom power program.

The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare stressed the need for passage by the 1957 Session of the Congress of legislation designed to speed a four-year plan of construction of needed schoolrooms to meet a nationwide shortage. He likewise discussed other proposals concerning his Department.

The Attorney General urged passage of the Civil Rights Program advanced last year by the President and the Department of Justice. He also recommended that Administration amendments to the Immigration and Naturalization Act recommended last year be again advanced and pressed for passage at the 1957 Session.

The Hungarian refugee relief program was not discussed today. The Vice President and the Attorney General will make a report on this program, together with recommendations, at tomorrow's bi-partisan meeting.

The meeting will reconvene this afternoon at two- o'clock. Among the subjects on the agenda are: farm legislation; small business aid proposals; labor legislation; postal rates; Interior Department programs, including water resources, conservation and Federal-State partnership projects; veteran housing; Civil Service legislation; lowering of the voting age; home rule and national suffrage for the District of Columbia; and housing and area re-development programs.